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RAJYA SABHA

The following Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st February, 1958:—

BILL No. 1 of 1958

A Bill to provide for punishment of persons guilty of molesting women

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Ninth year of the Republic of India as follows:—

(1) This Act may be called the Punishment for Molestation of Women Act, 1958.

Short title,
extent and
commence-
ment.

(2) It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. "Molestation" includes indecent behaviour towards a woman, insult, assault or criminal force with intent to outrage her modesty, kidnapping, abduction, procuration or importation or wrongful confinement of a woman for an immoral purpose.

Definition.

3. Notwithstanding anything contained in any Act in force for the time being, whoever molests any woman or abets the act of molestation shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to fifteen years or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Bill is intended to punish offenders who indulge in crimes against women. The punishment prescribed by the Indian Penal Code is far from adequate. The Bill therefore provides for a deterrent punishment with a view to check the increasing social menace.

SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM.

S. N. MUKERJEE,
Secretary.